

# Scout leader charged

Marion man faces count of sodomy in 1982 incident

By Jack Jones

Democrat and Chronicle

MARION — A Boy Scout leader described by the minister of his church as "quite an upstanding person and dedicated citizen" was charged yesterday with sodomy in connection with a series of incidents involving a 12-year-old member of his scouting troop nearly three years ago.

Alan Miles Dean of 4005 Buffalo St., Marion, was arraigned yesterday afternoon in Marion Town Court on a felony charge of second-degree sodomy. Town Justice Paul Bender released Dean without bail and ordered him to appear for further proceedings Jan. 2 pending a grand jury investigation.

Dean, 37, was charged after the youth, now 15, earlier this week confided to a therapist at a Rochester mental therapy center that he had been sexually assaulted at Dean's home early in 1982 while a member of Boy Scout Troop 130 in Marion, said Investigator William Bolling of the state police substation in Williamson.

Therapists are required by law to report such incidents to police "because it's considered child abuse," Bolling said. "The matter was reported to us through the Monroe County Department of Social Services."

The unidentified youth, who lives with his family in Newark, lived in Marion during the spring of 1982 when the reported incidents took place, Bolling said.

Bolling said the youth was referred to the Rochester therapy center, a group home that he wouldn't name, for treatment of behavioral problems after a Wayne County police agency charged the youth with a series of thefts and minor crimes.

During an interview with a therapist attempting to discover the reasons for his recent behavior, the youth told of the sexual assaults, Bolling said.

"He may be the one-in-a-thousand whose legal troubles were caused by something he has kept inside that happened during his childhood," Bolling said. "This is the first

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case like this I've ever heard of."

Bolling said the youth told the therapist and later told police he was assaulted on several occasions before he dropped out of the troop and stopped going to Dean's home.

Bolling said the statute of limitations allows prosecution on such felonies for five years after the time of occurrence.

Dean, contacted at his home last night, acknowledged that he had appeared in Marion Town Court yesterday afternoon but refused to say how long he has been a scout leader or whether he will resign the post. "I have no comment at this time," Dean said.

Bolling said a police check revealed that Dean had previously been jailed for sexual abuse in Monroe County.

Dean was charged with first-de-

gree sexual abuse in September 1973, according to the Monroe County district attorney's office. In October 1973, he was sentenced to six months in the Monroe County Jail after pleading guilty to second-degree sexual abuse in connection with the charges. The district attorney's office had no details on events that led to the 1973 charges.

Roy Clark, senior district executive of the Finger Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America, said last night that the charge against Dean is "devastating."

Clark said Dean has been a scout leader "for a number of years," but he didn't know how many.

Clark said the local scouting council doesn't routinely investigate leaders for a history of sexual offenses or

other criminal activities unless there's reason to suspect the individual.

David Park, general counsel for the Boys Scouts of America at the organization's headquarters in Irving, Texas, said the national agency doesn't require an investigation of the 1.3 million local scout leaders in the nation.

"There's no easy way for us to know whether someone has done something like this in the past," Park said. "After the fact, if they've done something while involved with scouting, then we put them on our confidential file."

Park said it's up to local councils and sponsoring organizations to investigate individuals who apply to become scouting leaders.

Dean's scout troop is sponsored by the United Church of Marion.

The Rev. Heidi Fuller, pastor of the church, said last night that she was shocked to learn of the charges against Dean and of his prior conviction on sexual abuse charges.

"This is very difficult to hear," Fuller said.

Fuller said Dean is an active member of the church and was a resident of the community and leader of the scout troop when she moved to Marion and was appointed pastor in the summer of 1981. She said the church's only function as sponsor of the troop is to provide a meeting place for scouting activities.

"I have no understanding that we either select or approve of the leadership," she said.

